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THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF

The Presbyterian Church of Canada,

AT ITS SPECIAL SESSION AT TORONTO,

OCTOBER 2-4, 1860.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

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1860.

SPECIAL MEETING OF SYNOD
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.
OCTOBER 1860.

FIRST SESSION.

At Toronto, and within Knox's Church there, the 2nd day of October, 1860, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada met by call of the Moderator and was constituted by prayer, praise, and the reading of the Word.

The Roll was made up, and called, and the names of those in attendance were marked.

The names of Members in attendance are marked thus *

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

MEMBERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
James Douglass		South Cavan and Milbrook
John M. Roger	William Tully	Peterboro.
Thomas Alexander	Andrew Runciman	Percy and Seymour
John W Smith	William Glover	Grafton and Vernonville.
Wm. J. McKenzie	William Mann	Baltimore and Coldsprings.
Francis Andrews	Thomas Davidson	Keene and Westwood.
*John Smith	William Bigham	Bowmanville and Enniskillen.
William C. Windell		Cartwright and Ballyduff.
*John Laing	*Walter Riddell	Cobourg.
William Blain	Robert Thompson	Springville.
James Bowie	Alexander Fraser	Norwood and Hastings.
Peter Duncan	A. C Singleton	Colborne and Brighton.
Peter McDiarmid	William Isaac	Bowmanton and Alnwick.

JAMES BOWIE, PRES. CLERK.

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Henry Gordon		Gananeque.
William McLaren	*John Keith	Belleville.
Peter Gray	J. Stewart	Kingston, Chalmer's Church.
Andrew Wilson	J. McLaughlin	Kingston, Brock St. Church.
James Hume		Melrose and Roslin.
R C Swinton	S. Anderson	Picton and Demorestville.
David Wishart		Madoc.
Thomas S. Chambers		Storrington.

A. MACALISTER, PRES. CLERK.

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
William Smart		Without charge
Robert Boyd	Joseph Reid	Prescott
William Lochead	Thomaas Duncan	Gloucester and N. Gower
*James K. Smith, A. M.	Sheriff Sherwood	Brockville
Andrew Melville	William Elliott	Spencerville, &c
Archibald Crawford	Peter Ewing	West Port, &c
J. Charles Quin	Walter Ker	Kemptville
D. E. Montgomery	Andrew Carson	South Gower, &c
Robert McKenzie	George McNish	Lyn and Yonge
Nathaniel Patterson	John Muir	Mirrickville, &c
Archibald Lees, A. M.	James Forsyth	Farmersville, &c

JAMES K. SMITH, PRES. CLERK.

PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
James Geggie	Wm Cuthbertson	Dalhousie
Thomas Wardrope	John Durie	Ottawa
Simon C. Fraser	John Forest	McNab
John McKinnon	Robert Kennedy	Beckwith and Goulburn
Vacant	William Pritchard	Wakefield
*James B. Duncan	Francis Hall	Perth
John L. Gourlay, A. M.	Thomas Robertson	Aylmer and Nepean
David Wardrope	W Cuthbertson	Bristol, C E
Henry McMeekin, A. M.	William Bell	Pembroke
James White		Osgoode
William McKenzie	Mr Yule	Ramsay
John McEwen	William Lough	Cumberland and Thurso
William Lochead	W McKenzie	Renfrew

J. L. GOURLAY, PRES. CLERK.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
William McAlister		Metis, C E
*W. B, Clark	W Peebles	Quebec, C E
Thomas Henry		Lachute, C E
Daniel Gordon		Indian Lands, Athol, C E
W. Serymgeour Deputy (John Redpath)		Cote Street, Montreal,
A. F. Kemp	W. Rowan	St Gabriel Street, Montreal
William Scott		St Sylvester, C E
Ewen McLean		Winslow C E
Duncan Cameron	D. McDonald	Lochiel C E
James McConechy		Leeds, C E
Arch. Henderson		St. Andrews, C E

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Hugh Campbell		Cornwall, C W
John Anderson		Lancaster, C W
John Crombie	W. Henry	Inverness, C E
Peter Currie	A. Philip	Vankleek Hill, C W
Alexander Allan		St Eu-tache, &c C E
John Milloy		Lingwick, C E
Adam F McQueen		Kenyon, C W
John McKay		Richmond, C E
James Thom		Williamsburg & Morrisb'g, C W
*James Greenfield		Martintown, &c., C W
Vacant		St Louis de Gonzague, C E
"		Winchester, C W
"		English River, C E
"		Laguerre, C E
"		Osnabruck, W
Stations		Valleyfield, C E
"		Farnham Centre, C E
"		Alexandria, &c, C W
"		Kennebec, C E

A. F. KEMP, PRES. CLERK.

*(Mr. Daniel Paterson has been, since the meeting of Synod, ordained as assistant and successor to Rev. A. Henderson, St. Andrews.)

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*George Cheyne, A. M.	George Young	Saltfleet and Binbrook.
*W. Y. Stark		Dundas.
*George Smellie	Alexander D. Ferrier	Fergus.
*Alexander McLean, M. A.	*Walter Macfarlane	Cumminsville and Nairn.
John Alexander	James Boyd	Brantford.
*Duncan McRuar,	George Cuthbertson	Ayr.
*James Black	Alexander Mitchell	Caledonia, &c.
Andrew J. Macaulay	Richard Moffat	Nassagaweya.
*Robert Irvine, D.D.	Robert Kelly	Hamilton, Knox's Church.
*David Inglis	Adam Cook	Hamilton, McNab Street Ch'rch.
*Robert F. Burns	James Dougan	St. Catherines.
*John Gillespie	William Waldie	Blenheim.
*Alexander McLean	Alexander McKenzie	East Puslinch.
James Middlemiss	*William Gibbon	Elora.
William Craig e	*Thomas M. England	Port Dover and Simcoe.
	John Dickie	Doon and New Hope.
*Andrew McLean	A. C. Geikie	West Puslinch.
*George Cuthbertson		Woolwich.
*John McRobie	I. Horne	Walpole and Jarvis.
John G. Murray	Robert Brown	Grimsby.
Alexander Grant		Sydenham, 2nd Con.
James Cameron		Sullivan and Glenelg.
William Park		Durham.
*William Millican	Alexander Dyce	Garafraxa.
*D. H. McVicar	Alexander Emslie	Guelph.
James Boyd	John McRae	Wellesley.
John McMechan		Berlin.

Donald McLean		Mount Forest.
Vacant	*Morris C. Lutz	Galt.
Vacant		Paris.
Vacant	Hugh Thomson	Waterdown & Wellington Sq.
Vacant	*Salmon Minor	Dunnville.
Vacant		Allanville.
Vacant		Owen Sound, Chalmer's Church.
Vacant	Peter Christie	Niagara.

JAMES MIDDLEMISS, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*Robert Burns, D.D.		Knox College.
*Michael Willis, D.D.		Knox College.
*James Harris		Without Charge.
*Alexander Topp, A.M	*John McMurrich	Knox's Church.
*William Reid, A.M		General Agent of Church.
*A. T. Holmes	*James Nesbit	Brampton.
*Thomas Wightman	*Gavin Allan	Innisfil, Barrie and Essa.
*John McTavish	Arch. Gillies	Thorah and Eldon.
John McLachlan	D. Kennedy,	Acton
*William Gregg	*John Rogers	Cooke's Church, Toronto.
*George P. Young		Knox College.
*James Nisbet	*J. Barclay	Oakville and Dundas Street.
*Robert Ure	*Ephraim Steen	Streetsville.
*John Gray		Orillia and Oro.
*Joseph Alexander, A.M	Donald Elder	Union and Norval.
*James Adams		King.
*Thomas Sharp	*Andrew Barclay	Ashburn and Utica.
John Black	*D. McLellan	Red River.
		Collingwood.
*James A. Thomson	*Wm. Foster	Erin and Caledon West.
*James Mitchell		Milton and Boston Church.
*James Stewart		Oro (Gaelic)
*George Craw		Melonte and Flos.
*Julius Straus		Markham.
	*William Clark, Senior	Scarborough.
	*William Heron	Whitby.
		West Gwilliambury & Bradf'd.
*R. Jamieson	*Wm. D. Stark	York Mills and Fisherville.
		Brock and Reach.

WILLIAM GREGG, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
James Findlay		Mitchell.
Donald McKenzie	Donald Campbell	Zorra.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Duncan McMillan	Archibald Patterson	Aldborough.
*Thomas McPherson	William Dunn	Stratford.
Daniel Allan		North Easthope.
William Meldrum	William McKenzie	Harrington.
William Graham	James Kerr	Egmondville.
John Fraser	Thomas Paterson	Thamesford.
Wm. R. Sutherland	George Tait	Ekfrid and Mosa.
Angus McColl		Chatham.
Lachlan McPherson	*Donald Fraser	Williams.
John Scott	*William Clark	London.
David Walker	Archibald Young	Port Sarnia.
William Troup		Plympton.
*William King	George Thompson	Boxton.
John Ross	George Walker	Brucefield.
Duncan McDiarmid	George Gunn	Chalmers's Church, Woodstock.
James W. Chestnut	Dugald Ferguson	Mandawmin & Enniskillen.
Andrew Tolmie		Blandford and Innerkip.
William Doak		Avon Ch, Downie & Carlgford.
James Ferguson	Duncan McBean	Lobo and Carradoc.
	F. McKenzie	Moore.
John Stewart		Kincardine.
Wm. T. McMullen	*A. Smith	Knox's Church, Woodstock.
Alexander Young		St. Thomas and Port Stanley.
John McMillan	Wm. Lynn	Fingal.
John Straith	John Laing	Tilbury East.
William Forrest	Duncan McKinlay	Ridgetown.
		St. Mary's.
James Blount		Bosanquet.
Arch. McDiarmid	Donald McMillan	Wallacetown, &c.
Alexander D. McDonald	William Murray	Clinton.
Archibald Currie		Blythe, Manchester & Hullet.
George Bremner		Paisley.
Alexander McKay		South Bruce and Greenock.
Vacant	Alexander Gordon	Ingersoll.
"		Beachville.
D. Beattie	M. Reid	Mornington.
Vacant		Amherstburgh.
"		Southampton and Port Elgin.
Stations	Alexander McColl	Belmont and Yarmouth.
"		Chalmer's Church, Dunwich.
"		Wardsville and Newburgh.
"		Wallaceburgh.
"		Maidstone and Mersea.
"		Vienna and Port Burwell.
"		Westminister and Frampton.
"		Elma.
"		Mornington Line.
"		Culross and Carrick.
"		Grey and Wallace.
"		Wawanosh and Kinloss.
"		Ashfield and Huron.
"		Tara and West Arran.

WILLIAM DOAK, Pres. Clerk.

The Clerk read the notice of the Moderator calling the meeting, which was in the following terms:

"TORONTO, 4th September, 1860.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

In terms of a requisition from the Convener of the Union Committee, in behalf of said committee, a Special Meeting of the Synod of the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Canada is hereby called, to take place in the city of Toronto, and within Knox's Church there, on the 2nd day of October next at 7 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of considering the Basis of Union between this Church, and the United Presbyterian Church, as approved by the committee of the two Churches, and for making any necessary arrangements with a view to the consummation of the Union.

Yours very truly,

W. B. CLARK, *Moderator.*"

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to approve of the conduct of the Moderator in calling this meeting.

Mr. Ure, Convener of the Committee on Union, presented Report of the Committee embodying the Basis of Union as formerly agreed to, with preamble agreed upon by the joint committees of the two churches in the following terms:—

"Whereas, for the glory of God and the welfare of the Church, it is desirable that a Union should be effected between the "*United Presbyterian Church*," and the "*Presbyterian Church of Canada*," on such terms as may be agreeable to the Word of God, and the standards accepted by both Churches; Whereas also it is expedient that a Basis of Union, in terms of the six Articles which follow, be adopted, as a statement of principles in regard to which the Churches are mutually agreed: Whereas, besides, it is desirable to prevent any possible misapprehensions in reference to the fourth of said Articles, therefore it is *hereby declared*, that no inference from that Article is legitimate, which asserts that the civil magistrate has the right to prescribe the faith of the Church, or to interfere with her ecclesiastical action: And it is further declared, that in regard to the practical application of said fourth Article, unanimity of sentiment is not required in the united body, and that if any particular case should emerge, it may, and can only, be considered and determined by the Church Courts, in accordance with the general principles and procedure of Presbyterian Churches:

Be it therefore resolved:

I. *Of Holy Scripture.*—That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, being the inspired Word of God, are the supreme and infallible rule of faith and life.

II. *Of the subordinate standards.*—That the Westminster Confession of Faith, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, are received by this Church as her subordinate standards.

But whereas certain sections of the said Confession of faith, which treat of the power or duty of the civil magistrate, have been objected to, as teaching principles adverse both to the right of private judgment in religious matters, and to the prerogatives which Christ has vested in His Church, it is to be understood:—

1. That no interpretation or reception of these sections is held by this Church, which would interfere with the fullest forbearance as to any difference of opinion which may prevail on the question of the endowment of the Church by the State.

2. That no interpretation or reception of these sections is required by this Church, which would accord to the State any authority to violate that liberty of conscience and right of private judgment which are asserted in chap. xx. sec. 2 of the Confession; and in accordance with the statements of which, this Church holds that every person ought to be at full liberty to search the Scriptures for himself, and to follow out what he conscientiously believes to be the teaching of Scripture, without let or hindrance; provided that no one is to be allowed, under the pretext of following the dictates of conscience, to interfere with the peace and good order of society.

3. That no interpretation or reception of these sections is required by this Church which would admit of any interference on the part of the State with the spiritual independence of the Church, as set forth in chap. xxx. of the Confession.

III. *Of the Headship of Christ over the Church.*—That the Lord Jesus Christ is the only King and Head of His Church: that He has made her free from all external or secular authority in the administration of her affairs, and that she is bound to assert and defend this liberty to the utmost, and ought not to enter into such engagements with any party as would be prejudicial thereto.

IV. *Of the Headship of Christ over the Nations, and the duty of the Civil Magistrate.*—That the Lord Jesus Christ, as Mediator, is invested with universal sovereignty, and is therefore King of Nations, and that all men in every capacity and relation are bound to obey His will as revealed in His Word; and particularly that the civil magistrate (including under that term all who are in any way concerned in the Legislative or Administrative action of the State) is bound to regulate his official procedure, as well as his personal conduct, by the revealed will of Christ.

V. *Of Church Government.*—That the system of polity established in the Westminster Form of Presbyterian Church Government, in so far as it declares a plurality of Elders for each congregation, the official equality of Presbyters, without any officers in the Church superior to the said Presbyters, and the unity of the Church in a due subordination of a smaller part to a larger, and of a larger to the whole, is the Government of this Church, and is, in the features of it therein set forth, believed by this Church to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God.

VI. *Of Worship.*—That the ordinances of worship shall be administered in this Church, as they have heretofore been, by the respective bodies of which it is composed, in a general accordance with the directions contained in the Westminster Directory of Worship."

On motion made and seconded, it was agreed to receive the Report of the Committee, and to proceed to consider the preamble to the Basis.

It was thereupon moved by Rev. A. F. Kemp, seconded by Mr. Heron: "That the action of the Committee on union as now reported be approved of, and the Basis of Union as presented be adopted; and that the following deputation be appointed to convey this decision, with the salutations of this court, to the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, now in Session in this city, and to request a conference to arrange the phraseology of the preamble in such a way as may be mutually agreeable."

After discussion it was moved and seconded—That the Synod do adjourn till nine o'clock A. M. to-morrow morning.

On being put to the house the motion was carried, and the Synod adjourned to meet to morrow at nine o'clock A. M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

SECOND SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd Oct., 9, A. M.,

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer, praise and the reading of the Word.

The minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained.

The Synod resumed consideration of the motion made by Mr. Kemp on the previous evening.

It was moved in amendment by Rev. Thomas McPherson, seconded by Dr. Irvine: "That a small committee be appointed, and that the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church be requested to appoint a similar number of their body to co-operate with such committee, in revising the preamble to the Basis now proposed, so as to render it more intelligible to those who appear to have difficulties in understanding it, and to bring it into more apparent harmony with the resolutions agreed to by the Synod at its last meeting."

At this stage it was moved by Mr. Ross and seconded, That the Synod now resolve itself into a committee of the whole to con-

sider the preamble to the Basis.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. McRuar, and seconded, "That the discussion proceed according to the standing orders of the Synod."

On a division being called for, the amendment was carried, and the discussion accordingly proceeded.

The vote was then called for, when there voted for Mr. Kemp's motion sixty-two, and for Mr. McPherson's amendment seven.

The motion was accordingly declared to be carried, and was adopted as the deliverance of the Synod.

Dr. Willis entered his dissent from the decision in so far as it limits the conference to mere verbal modifications of the preamble. Messrs. Smellie, Thomas McPherson, and L. McPherson also dissented.

The Synod appointed the following as a deputation to convey the decision just come to by the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, viz: Messrs. Topp, Inglis, Kemp, Stark, and Gregg.

The Synod adjourned to meet again at half past two o'clock P. M., and the diet was closed with prayer.

THIRD SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd Oct.,
2½ P. M.

The Synod again met and was constituted with prayer.

The Minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained.

Mr. Topp, on the part of the deputation appointed in the forenoon, reported that they had waited on the Synod of the United Presbyterian church, and had communicated the resolution of this Synod, and farther, that they had received a most fraternal reception.

The Report was sustained.

There after appeared the following deputation from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, namely, Dr. Thornton, Messrs. James, King Aitken, Ministers, and Mr. Agnew, Elder; and laid on the table the following extract from the minutes of their Synod: "Toronto, 3rd Oct., 1860; The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church met and was constituted. Inter alia. Took up Basis of Union as submitted by the Synod's Union Committee.

It was moved by Mr. James, seconded by Mr. King, and carried by a majority of fifty to eleven: That the Synod devoutly acknowledges the goodness of God in the result to which the joint committee has been unanimously brought, and adopts the Basis in its amended form as a ground of union between the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, believing that every thing is secured by the preamble of said Basis which was contemplated by the proposed addition to the 4th article, and unanimously agreed upon at the last meeting of Synod.

It was also agreed to appoint a Committee to convey to the Presbyterian Synod the finding of this Synod on the Preamble and articles of the Basis of Union. The Committee was appointed as follows, namely, The Rev. Dr. Thornton, Rev. Messrs. James, King, Aitken, and Mr. John Agnew, Elder.

The Synod cordially agreed to the request of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Canada to meet them in Conference at any hour this afternoon that may suit their convenience, and that the above named committee intimate the same to that Synod and make all necessary arrangements for the conference.

Extracted, &c., by Wm. Fraser, Synod Clerk."

The members of the deputation briefly addressed the Synod.

On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed that the Moderator convey to the deputation the great gratification which the Synod had experienced in receiving the deputation, and hearing from them the decision to which their Synod had come.

This was accordingly done by the Moderator in appropriate terms.

The Synod then adjourned until after the conference, and the diet was closed with prayer.

FOURTH SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, 3rd Oct.
7½ P. M.

The Synod again met and was constituted.

The minutes of last sederunt were read and sustained.

The Clerk read report of conference which had just taken place between the members of this Synod and those of the United Presbyterian Church. The Report embodied the following modification of the phraseology of the preamble to Basis.

"The Presbyterian Church of Canada and the United Presbyterian Church in Canada, believing that it would be for the glory of God, and for the advancement of the cause of Christ in the land, that they should be united, and form one Church, do hereby agree to unite on the following Basis, to be subscribed by the Moderators of the respective Synods in their name and behalf; declaring, at the same time, that no inference from the fourth article of said Basis is held to be legitimate, which asserts that the Civil Magistrate has the right to prescribe the faith of the Church, or to interfere with the freedom of her ecclesiastical action; further, that unanimity of sentiment is not required in regard to the practical applications of the principle embodied in the said fourth article, and that, whatever differences of sentiment may arise on these subjects, all action in reference thereto shall be regulated by, and be subject to, the recognized principles of Presbyterian Church order."

On motion made by Mr. Kemp, seconded by Mr. Topp, it was resolved to adopt simpliciter the preamble to the Basis of Union as agreed upon in conference, and as now read.

It was also on motion of Mr. Ross, seconded by Mr. McTavish, agreed that the Basis of Union with the preamble be now adopted, and that the Clerk be instructed to communicate the same to the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church.

Mr. L. McPherson, Minister, and Mr. D. Fraser, dissented for reasons to be given in.

The Synod then adjourned to meet tomorrow at half-past nine o'clock.

FIFTH SESSION.

THURSDAY, 4th Oct.
9½ A. M.

The Synod again met and was constituted, with prayer, praise, and the reading of the Word.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

Mr. L. McPherson handed in reasons of dissent from the decision come to last evening. The same were read, and it was agreed that they be kept in retentis.

The Synod appointed the following as a committee to prepare answers to said reasons, viz., Messrs. Topp, Kemp, and McLaren.

A communication was read from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, to the effect that they had unanimously adopted the preamble to the Basis as agreed to in conference.

The Clerk read the minutes of a conference held last evening between the members of this Synod and the members of the United Presbyterian Synod. From these minutes it appeared that a majority approved of the title of the united church being, "The Canada Presbyterian Church;" and that a majority were in favor of the union being consummated in Knox's Church, Toronto, on the 20th December, 1860.

Thereafter the following motions were submitted:

1. It was moved by Mr. Kemp, and seconded: That the name of the United Church be, "The Canada Presbyterian Church."

2. It was moved in amendment by Mr. Duncan, and seconded: That this Synod has a very decided preference for the name of "The Presbyterian Church in Canada," but that in the event of the sister Synod deciding to abide by the name adopted at the conference last night, the Synod resolve to concur with them in that decision.

3. It was also moved in amendment by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Inglis: That the name of the Church be "The Canadian Presbyterian Church."

The two amendments being put against each other, that by Mr. Duncan carried. The

original motion and the amendment were then put to the house, when the amendment was carried, and was adopted as the deliverance of the Synod.

It was then moved by Mr. Laing, seconded by Mr. M'Ruar, That this Synod does not judge it expedient to hold any special meeting with a view to union with the United Presbyterian Church, but resolves to proceed in consummating that union at its next ordinary meeting as appointed to be held in Montreal in June next.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Gillespie, seconded by Mr. Sharp, That the resolution adopted by the conference as to the time and place for the consummation of the union be adopted by this Synod.

Mr. Smellie also moved an amendment, which not being seconded, fell to the ground.

On a division, Mr. Laing's motion was carried by a majority, and the Synod resolved accordingly.

Dr. Willis dissented from the decision in so far as it commits the Synod to consummate the union at the date specified.

Mr. Smellie also dissented for the following reasons, which he gave in.

I. Because it seems to be taken for granted, that the union of churches is an essential matter, whereas *spiritual unity*, not mere *unior*, is the object set before us in the Word of God; whereas a visible and rational union by no means meets that idea, and whereas further, such a union must necessarily be limited, and an universal union is impracticable.

II. Because although in certain cases practical advantage might seem to dictate the propriety of a union between the Presbyterian Church of Canada and the United Presbyterian Church,—with how much reason however remains still to be proved,—yet the proposed Union is quite uncalled for, unless better cause can be shown than any that has hitherto been alleged; and cause sufficient to countervail existing difficulties.

3. Because the entire process of negotiation about Union between those two churches, has brought out the fact that there exists great want of harmony of sentiment and feelings between a large number of the members and office-bearers on the one side, and a large number of those on the other. And therefore no confidence of any good results from Union can be cherished in these circumstances, but rather the expectation that union, if at present consummated, will prove a positive hindrance to *Unity*;—because further, the attempt to urge it now would be a reckless temptation of Providence;—and because the two churches are more likely to serve God faithfully, and to maintain peace in a state of separation than of incorporation.

IV. Because while a majority on both sides may be desirous of union, it is notorious that many members of our church courts, and of this Synod, as well as many private members of the church throughout our congregations, are advisedly and deliberately opposed to the measure. And because union being a matter not vital, and yet materially affecting the constitution of the church, the carrying out of it by way of a majority of votes, is ungenerous towards a minority.

V. Because nothing can be expected from union carried into effect in the face of an earnest opposition, but the alienation of a large body of our Ministers, Elders, and people from the standard of the Presbyterian Church of Canada or a second disruption as its first fruit. And because past experience and calm reflection combine to justify the Synod in anticipating trouble from such an attempt to amalgamate heterogeneous elements; and therefore in hesitating before proceeding to precipitate a result so momentous in itself, and probably so disastrous to the church.

G. SMELLIE.

The Synod appointed the following committee, viz., Messrs. Ure, McTavish, Inglis, Scott, to prepare answers to Mr. Smellie's reasons of dissent.

The Synod adjourned to meet again after conference with the members of the United Presbyterian Church, and the diet was closed with prayer.

SIXTH SESSION.

The Synod again met and was constituted with praise and prayer.

The minutes of last diet were read and sustained.

Mr. Topp read answers to the reasons of dissent given in by Mr. L. McPherson.

It was moved and seconded,—That the answers be approved, and that they be kept in retentis with the reasons.

It was moved in amendment by Mr. Ross, and seconded by Mr. McRuar,—That the answers be re-committed to the committee.

The motion was carried, and the answers were accordingly approved.

From this decision Dr. Willis, Dr. Irvine, and Mr. McRuar dissented.

The Clerk then read minutes of conference with members of the United Presbyterian Church. In accordance with the recommendations of the conference, the Synod appointed the following committees, to act jointly with corresponding committees of the other Synod, viz.:

1. *For Arrangement of Presbyteries; Mode of Distributing preachers; and Home Missions*—Messrs. Laing, Wilson, J. K. Smith, T. Wardrope, McRuar, Scott, Ross, W. B. Clark, Nisbet; Mr. Nisbet, Oakville, Convener.

2. *On Theological Education*—Messrs. Topp, Kemp, Laing, Ross, McMurrich; Mr. Topp, Toronto, Convener.

3. *For obtaining Act for Securing Congregations in possession of their property after the Union, in the same manner as they now hold it in connection with the separate Bodies*—Messrs. Kemp, Gregg, Reid, McMurrich, F. Torrance; Mr. Kemp, Montreal, Convener.

4. *On Forms of process*—Messrs. Gillespie, Kemp, Gregg; Mr. Gillespie, Princeton, Convener.

5. *On Widows' Fund*—The existing Committee on Widows' Fund; James Osborne, Esq., Hamilton, Convener.

6. *On arrangements for consummation of Union*—The Presbytery of Montreal, the Elders resident in the city, the Moderator and Clerk of Synod, with Messrs. Ure, Scott, Dr. Irvine, Messrs. Laing, McLaren, J. K. Smith, and Duncan.

Mr. Ure, on behalf of committee, read answers to reasons of dissent given in by Mr. Smellie.

The answers are as follows, viz:—

I. In this reason there is an assertion of the obvious truths, that all believers are one in Christ, and that their oneness as resulting from union to Christ is not dependent on a visible and external union. It is unnecessary to say that the Synod admits these truths, while it confesses its inability to see how such general statements, or the alleged inference from them, to the effect, that the union of any two churches cannot be regarded as essential, can furnish any ground of objection to the decision dissented from.

II. In regard to this reason, in which it is stated that the union is uncalled for on the ground, that there are existing difficulties in the way to its being carried into effect, while the advantages to be gained by it are uncertain, it is replied that there is no doubt on the part of the Synod as to the practical advantages of this union. As the nature of the existing difficulties has not been explained in the the reason, it is impossible for the Synod to give an opinion respecting them.

III. In reply to what is alleged in this reason, as to the great want of harmony of sentiment between the two churches, it is submitted, that in the absence of the specification of the points in regard to which this alleged want of harmony exists, the allegation can only be met by the assertion, that the Synod is not aware of any such diversities of sentiment as would, in the sight of God, justify the two churches in longer remaining apart; and, believing this, the Synod is of opinion that the two churches may reasonably look for greater success in their work, when pursuing it as a united body, than they would be warranted in expecting while in a state of separation.

IV. The Synod considers that it has abundant reason for gratitude to the Head of the Church in view of the extraordinary measure of agreement which has marked its recent deliberations and final decision in regard to this question of union; believing that in few instances, if any, has a question of equal magnitude been determined with

a like degree of general and hearty concurrence on the part of its members. And, farther, the Synod cannot perceive any foundation for the charge of injustice preferred against its procedure on this question, and founded on the absence of perfect unanimity in the decision arrived at, as liberty to dissent has been freely accorded to those who desired to avail themselves of it.

V. In this reason apprehensions are expressed of serious disagreements arising in the united body to destroy its peace and imperil its unity, but as the grounds of these apprehensions are not stated, the Synod can only say that it believes them to be baseless.

R. URE, Convener.

A communication having been received from the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church to the effect, that they had decided in favor of the name of the Church being "The Canada Presbyterian Church," it was resolved to adopt that as the name to be assumed by the United Church.

It was moved by Dr. Willis, seconded by Mr. Topp, and agreed to, that the Clerk be instructed to have the Basis and preamble, as now finally adopted, printed and circulated throughout the church.

It was, on motion made and seconded, agreed to record special thanksgiving to the great Head of the Church for His great goodness in thus far guiding the deliberations of the Synod, and bringing them to the present stage.

After recording thanks to the office-bearers of Knox's Church and to the friends in Toronto, for their hospitable reception and entertainment, the Synod was closed with prayer and the Apostolical benediction.

APPENDIX.

Reasons of Dissent given in by Rev. L. McPherson and D. Fraser:

I hereby enter my dissent from the decision come to by the Synod at last evening's sederunt on the subject of the Basis of Union agreed to and submitted by the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church, for the following reasons.

1. That the said Basis of Union as now adopted in its enlarged form possesses features most objectionable, inasmuch as it grants substantially what was insisted upon from the beginning by the United Presbyterian Church as the terms of union, viz: forbearance in the practical application of the doctrine of Christ's Headship over the nations.

2. That when these terms were proposed by the United Presbyterian Church, this Synod explicitly declared that no such forbearance could be granted by this church consistently with her regard to the sacredness of truth and her obligations to her Divine Head.

That in receding from this attitude—the only honourable and safe one (in the opinion of the undersigned) it could assume in the case,—the Synod has seriously endangered the doctrinal purity of the church, as well as compromised its own consistency in the eyes of the world.

3. That by the adoption of the above mentioned Basis last evening, the union contemplated is now decided upon, while the members and adherents, (the body of the church,) have, as yet, had no intimation regularly communicated to them by the Synod of any change in their ecclesiastical position being under its consideration That by pursuing this course the Synod has virtually assumed the right and power of legislating within the domain of conscience, and has set aside, without the knowledge or consent of those whose interest it is, one of the most precious and sacred rights with which Christ has invested each and all of the Members of His church.

LACHLAN MCPHERSON.

I concur in the above reasons,

DONALD FRASER.

Answers to Mr. McPherson's reasons of dissent:

1. That no forbearance is granted on the subject of the application of the doctrine of Christ's Headship over the nations, except such as brotherly love and Christian principle demand. It is further expressly stipulated in the preamble of the Basis, in addition to the distinct assertion of the Headship of Christ in one of the articles thereof, that all action in regard to the practical application of the principles be regulated by and be subject to the recognized principles of Presbyterian Church order.

2. The assertion made in this reason of dissent is contradicted by the resolution of this Synod in 1858, which declares that the Synod whilst allowing forbearance on minor relations and applications of the question, shall distinctly assert the Headship of the Lord Jesus over the nations of the earth, and the duty of the Civil Magistrate to acknowledge and obey the revelation of God's authority in His blessed Word—all which is amply secured in the Basis adopted.

3. In reply to this reason it is affirmed as recorded in the minutes of Synod held at Hamilton in June, 1860, that the Basis of Union had been approved by all the Presbyteries of the Church, and by 88 out of 95 Kirk Sessions sending returns. Further, it is the fact, that very many of the congregations of the Church have spontaneously met and given their assent to the Basis. The Synod, therefore, before taking the step complained against by the dissentients, have taken all constitutional means of ascertaining the sentiments of the Members of the Church, and have had an expression of the mind of the Church in its Presbyteries, Sessions and Congregations, amply sufficient to justify the Synod in the course which they have taken.

ALEXANDER TOPP, Convener.